

## The New York Public Library and Cardi B Present #ReadingforaStrongerNYC, Strengthening NYC Through Literacy

NEW YORK, N.Y., **April 23, 2020**/ -- The New York Public Library (NYPL) and musical superstar and Bronx native, Cardi B team up to increase literacy rates in NYC. 45% of the nation's population do not have the literacy skills to participate in family, work and community activities. In order to strengthen New York City and improve the lives of New Yorkers the NYPL and Cardi B have joined forces to bring New Yorkers #ReadingforaStrongerNYC, a literacy education program for New Yorkers ages 12 and older. Currently, only 3% of the New York City residents that need literacy education are receiving it. It is the mission of the program to increase that percentage, starting July 1st through December 31, 2020 through programming at all NYC NYPL branches.

Cardi B is an advocate for people participating in their communities and government, and that is only possible through strong literacy skills. It is the mission of the program to strengthen New Yorkers through the power of reading. Alongside literacy education workshops in all branches, there will be monthly programs, challenges and events where participants can win amazing prizes based on their participation in the program. In December, #ReadingforaStrongerNYC will culminate with a series of celebrations. One of which will be a concert and meet and greet with none other but Grammy award winner, Cardi B and Friends. To attend participants must have an active New York City Public Library card and have been active in the #ReadingforaStrongerNYC program.

“Literacy is one of the most important skills you need to make sure you and your family have a good future,” says Cardi B. “I wasn’t the best in school but when I started to read more, I got informed about what was going on around me and in my neighborhood. We have to make sure our voices are heard and we leave a better New York for our kids and families.

#ReadingforaStrongerNYC is the first step to protecting our legacy and sharing how fun and powerful reading is with the people we love.”

To participate and stay up to date with #ReadingforaStrongerNYC, follow The New York Public Library on Twitter or Instagram, @NYPL for adults and @NYPLTeens for Young Adults, use the hashtag #ReadingforaStrongerNYC, or visit the New York Public Library facebook page, [www.facebook.com/nypl/](http://www.facebook.com/nypl/) or website, [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org) for information and updates.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.literacynewyork.org/literacy-facts>, Accessed April 23, 2020

<sup>2</sup> <https://literacypartners.org/literacy-in-new-york-city-the-challenge>, Accessed April 23, 2020